

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 IO-13 L-03 NEA-10 CCO-00 CIAE-00

OTPE-00 FCC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 COME-00 BIB-01

ACDA-07 DODE-00 PM-04 NASA-01 NSC-05 ERDA-05 OES-06

SAJ-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 AF-08

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----- 113156

O R 040003Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 219501

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: INTELSAT: ETEL, PORG, CH, TW

SUBJECT: INTELSAT: CHIREP

REFS: (A) STATE 217863; (B) TAIPEI 5964; (C) TAIPEI 6021;

(D) BONN 14572; (E) NAIROBI 9505

1. WE WELCOME GROC DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM MEMBERSHIP

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IN INTELSAT AS IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO OUR EFFORTS TO

ASSURE TAIWAN'S ACCESS TO SYSTEM AS NON-MEMBER. APPARENTLY ROC IS STILL CONSIDERING SENDING A DELEGATION TO NAIROBI FOR LOBBYING ON THE ACCESS ISSUE AND IS THINKING ABOUT DELAYING SUBMISSION OF WITHDRAWAL NOTICE TO AVOID EXCUSE FOR KENYA NOT TO ISSUE VISAS. THIS ROC STRATEGY IS PREDICATED ON BELIEF THAT WITHDRAWAL WOULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE FOR 90 DAYS AFTER NOTICE FILED. ASIDE FROM SERIOUS DOUBTS OVER THE VALIDITY OF THIS ROC INTERPRETATION, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT CAUSE OF CONTINUED ACCESS WOULD BE SERVED BY ROC PRESENCE AT MEETING. THE PRESENCE OF A ROC DELEGATION AT NAIROBI WILL DIMINISH THE POSITIVE EFFECTS ROC WITHDRAWAL HAS IN DEFUSING AN ISSUE WHICH IS THORNY FOR MANY MEMBERS AND IS BOUND TO AROUSE CONTROVERSY. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT ROC SHOULD FILE WITHDRAWAL PAPERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND SHOULD ABANDON THOUGHTS OF SENDING A DELEGATION. THIS

WOULD ASSIST OUR LOBBYING EFFORTS WITH SELECTED MEMBERS ON THE ACCESS ISSUE AND WOULD ALSO ALLOW MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE ROC'S WITHDRAWAL INTO ACCOUNT IN INSTRUCTING THEIR DELEGATIONS TO MEETING. WE WILL PRESS THIS ARGUMENT WITH ROC EMBASSY HERE AND EMBASSY SHOULD REINFORCE IT IN ANY DISCUSSIONS IN TAIPEI ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. AS TAIWAN'S EARTH STATIONS ALREADY HAVE ACCESS AND ONLY NEED PERIODIC APPROVAL OF CAPACITY ALLOCATIONS, WITHDRAWAL FROM MEMBERSHIP PER SE WOULD NOT AFFECT ACCESS. IT WOULD REQUIRE A POSITIVE ACT TO END SUCH ACCESS, MOST LIKELY PRC ACCESSION TO MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSEQUENT CHALLENGE TO TAIWAN'S RIGHT TO ACCESS IN PRESENT FORM ON GROUNDS IT EXERCISES SOVEREIGNTY OVER ISLAND. SHOULD ACCESS ISSUE IN ANY WAY ARISE AT NAIROBI, OUR STRATEGY WILL BE TO ARGUE THAT MATTER IS ONE FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS TO DECIDE. WE FAVOR REFERRAL OF MATTER TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS BECAUSE MEMBERSHIP IS MADE UP OF SIGNATORIES OF OPERATING AGREEMENT (COMSAT IN OUR CASE) WHO CAN BE EXPECTED TO EMPHASIZE BUSINESS RATHER THAN POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN MOST CASES; THE LOSS OF SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS FROM TAIWAN

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COULD PROVIDE AN INCENTIVE FOR A FAVORABLE OUTCOME ON ACCESS. MOREOVER, UNDER WEIGHTED SYSTEM OF VOTING, US HAS 30 PERCENT OF VOTE AND WOULD REQUIRE SUPPORT OF ONLY THREE OTHER GOVERNORS TO BLOCK A MOVE TO DENY ACCESS.

3. IN NEXT FEW DAYS WE INTEND TO APPROACH SELECTED MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, INFORMING THEM OF ROC DECISION TO

WITHDRAW AND URGING THEIR SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED TAIWAN ACCESS TO INTELSAT SYSTEM ON COMMERCIAL BASIS SHOULD THIS ISSUE ARISE AT NAIROBI. WE WILL CITE THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSAL ACCESS EMBRACED BY THE INTELSAT TREATY, THE ECONOMIC NEEDS OF TAIWAN AND THE USG'S OWN INTEREST IN ASSURING TAIWAN'S CONTINUED ACCESS. WE ALSO PLAN TO INFORM PAKISTAN OF THE ROC'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW IN THE HOPE THIS WILL INFLUENCE THEM TO CONFINE THEIR INTENDED RESOLUTION TO WELCOMING PRC MEMBERSHIP.

4. FYI - DEPT IS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT CHANCES OF ASSURING TAIWAN'S FUTURE ACCESS IN THE EVENT THAT, SUBSEQUENT TO ACQUIRING MEMBERSHIP, PRC ASSERTS SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE TAIWAN EARTH STATIONS AND RECEIVES WIDESPREAD MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT FOR THIS POSITION. HOWEVER, OUR INFORMATION TO DATE DOES NOT INDICATE THAT THE PRC INTENDS TO ACT ALONG SUCH LINES FOR THE PRESENT. THOUGH ROC HAS ASKED IF WE WOULD BE WILLING TO INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ITS CONTINUED ACCESS,

WE BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE INADVISABLE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. PRC MIGHT FEEL COMPELLED TO RESPOND TO A FORMAL RAISING OF THIS ISSUE.

5. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON PARAS 1, 2, AND 3 IN DISCUSSING SUBJECT WITH ROC.

ROBINSON

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